Suggestions about contractors exploring Natural Gas

2820. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Law and Justice had received any request from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, seeking comments or suggestions with regard to the contractors engaged in exploration of natural gas, who are threatening to abandon the project midway, in case their unlawful demands are not accepted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any reply has been sent to that Ministry and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacancies of Judges in High Court

2821. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies to be filled up in various High Courts;

(b) the period in months/years since the said posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for the delay in filling up those posts; and

(d) whether Government would formulate a plan for starting up the process of appointment six months before the vacancy occurs and whether Government are having any policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court, lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has, however, been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of the States for filling up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts including those falling vacant during the next six months.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Streneth	Vacancies	Date of Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
					07.07.2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Allahabad	95	76	19	01.07.2007 15.06.2007 10.06.2007 19.05.2007 01.04.2007 11.03.2007 01.02.2007 15.01.2007 24.12.2006 18. 10.2006 14.07.2006 10.04.2006 03.04.2006 01.03.2006 01.12.2005 11.11.2005 31.08.2005 28.08.2005
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	8	01.06.2007 18.04.2007 11.02.2007 12.01.2007 23.05.2005 03.05.2005 20.03.2005 02.03.2005
3	Bombay	61	53	8	28.06.2007 11.05.2007 11.05.2007 08.04.2007 27.03.2007 12.01.2007 07.01.2007 24.11.2006
4	Calcutta	50	42	8	15.07.2007 03.05.2007 15.12.2006 24.11.2005 10.11.2005 04.10.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
					09.09.2005 21.08.2005
5	Chhattisgarh	8	6	2	04.04.2007 03.09.2006
6	Delhi	36	33	3	10.07.2007 03.01.2007 28.11.2006
7	Gauhati	23	22	1	01.04.2007
8	Gujarat	42	30	12	16.07.2007 14.04.2007 10.04.2007 20.08.2006 19.07.2006 07.08.2005 04.03.2005 10.12.2004 22.08.2004 10.06.2004 07.06.2004 19.12.2002
9	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	0	
10	Jammu and Kashmir	14	9	5	01.04.2007 04.05.2006 17.01.2006 15.10.2005 20.08.2005
11	Jharkhand	12	9	3	10.05.2007 13.08.2005 01.07.2005
12	Karnataka	40	36	4	29.05.2007 08.05.2007 01.01.2007 06.10.2006
13	Kerala	29	27	2	26.04.2007 23.04.2007
14	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	1	05.06.2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	Madras	46	42	4	20.08.2007 15.08.2007 06.05.2007 08.03.2007
16	Orissa	20	14	6	29.02.2007 02.01.2007 24.11.2004 22.03.2004 22.03.2004 03.03.2004
17	Patna	31	30	1	16.06.2007
18	Punjab and Haryana	40	34	6	15.03.2007 15.03.2007 24.01.2007 12.01.2007 02.01.2007 25.12.2006
19	Rajasthan	40	36	4	13.03.2007 20.02.2007 27.10.2006 17.06.2006
20	Sikkim	3	1	2	04.04.2007 12.07.2007
21	Uttaranchal	9	9	0	
	TOTAL:	689	590	99	

Vacancies in courts and regulatory authorities

2822. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present vacancies of Supreme Court and High Courts Judges and the Chairmen and Members of various regulatory authorities within the jurisdiction of the Central Government, indicating the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court, each High Court and the Regulatory authorities; and

(b) the steps Government are taking to fill the same at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The details of the vacancies in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 1.9.2007 are given in the Statement (*See* below).